

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes June 14, 2006

In Attendance:

Chairman Paul Keegan, Vice-Chairman Helene Tanenholtz, Board members Lillian Goodman, Martin Green, Helen McLaughlin, Tim Swiss, and Secretary John Concordia. Director Sharon Yager was also present.

1. Chairman's Comments:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10:05 am. Minutes of the May 10, 2006 meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Board. Paul offered the Board's gratitude to the Shrewsbury Firefighters for their recent activity and financial contribution to the COA. He also noted that the selectmen are to be thanked for their approval of an increase in funds available to the "tax write-off" program for seniors.

A letter of thanks were sent to our lunch room coordinator, Sharon Wright, for her continued enthusiastic management of the nutrition program despite the upheaval at Worcester's Age Center. A letter was also sent to the Board of Selectmen for their support in expanding the Tax Work Off Program. A letter of thanks will be written to the Firemen's Association for their generosity during the annual Firemen's Cookout and for the wonderful event they provide to the seniors. Finally, Paul noted that the Westwood Committee has been able to gain a reduction in interest payment requirements for municipals allowing tax deferral agreements.

2. Director's Comments:

Sharon reported that the computer for My Senior Center use has been set up next to the reception desk and the software programs are functioning. No manuals are ready yet since the system is still evolving as more centers use the programs. She is hopeful that overall operations will be improved greatly.

Sharon reported that we will not be receiving a grant from St. Vincent's this year. The NCOA grant program is evaluating 8 finalists for the \$25,000 awards. Finally, Sharon reported that the MOW and nutrition programs seem to be functioning much better under the direction of Elder Services of Worcester which has taken over responsibility after the Age Center debacle.

3. Liaison Reports:

Helene reported that the Friends had realized a \$1000 profit from the May Madness calendar event. The Friends annual yearend luncheon will be held at Indian Meadows on the 20th -- (reservations by the 16th). Plans are in process for the Jail and Bail event during the fall festival and a review of the membership renewal procedures is under way.

Walter Rice submitted his monthly report of May activities.

Sharon indicated that she had received a newsletter from MASS HOME CARE and the NCOA had forwarded an interesting article discussing the "Boomers" impact on seniors in the near future.

4. Old Business:

The tax work off program updated application and procedural requirements were reviewed—Sharon indicated that we have enough applicants to fill the 20 available slots.

The outreach coordinator job description was discussed at some length. Sharon also offered some suggestions for “birthday recognition” for seniors from the COA—no final decisions reached.

5. New Business:

Elections were held and the current slate of officers will continue as presently operating. The nominated slate was moved, seconded and accepted unanimously. Helen offered to take over the secretary’s position if necessary.

6. Other:

Marty, Helene and Lillian will meet as a subcommittee after the Board Meeting to decide upon a date they will meet to finalize the Outreach Coordinator’s Job Description.

Lillian presented a newspaper article indicating that VNA was sponsoring some “Keep Well” clinics which may be an opportunity for the COA to explore.

Finally, Sharon offered a proposal which the COA staff had put together for a “Wellness Expo” on Sept.29th. This would emphasize volunteerism, community involvement and wellness as demonstrated by various organizations in town. It would give the COA some additional visibility during the Fall Festival. The board was enthusiastic in its support for such a project.

Respectfully submitted,

John Concordia, Secretary